THE

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JOURNAL

For Collectors
of the
LIBERTY SEATED COIN SERIES

VOLUME NINETEEN ISSUE #55

HALF DIMES

1837	NS, PCGS MS-62, PQ	$775
1839-O	Small o, nice XF	58
1839-O	Large O, Choice VG/F, R-7	925
1840-O	ND, Large O, Choice UNC	750
1844-O	Small o, VG	90
1844-O	Sm o, upset reverse, XF/AU	1000
1845	Original AU-, nice	90
1846	G+, a few pin scratches	110
1848	Large date, Choice toned UNC	750
1849-O	Lightly cleaned AU, rare	650
1852	Very choice original XF/AU	50
1852-O	AU, old cleaning, rare	620
1853-O	NA, G/VG, weak date	130
1853-O	NA, VG/F, weak date	195
1860-O	Clashed obv, a few marks	33
1863	Choice G/VG, rare	145
1863-S	Cleaned AU, two rim ticks	135
1864	Choice G/VG, rare	285
1864	Toned original choice BU	1500
1866	Fine, a few hidden marks	245
1868	F/VF, faint LI8ERTY	52
1868-S	Fine+, old cleaning	17
1871-S	Good	14
1872-S	S in wreath, VF/XF	22

DIMES

1838-O	O/O, original toned UNC	$2500
1839-O	Lg O, original toned UNC	1750
1841-O	Sm o, original gem UNC	2950
1842-O	Medium O, slabbed MS-64, Finest known	22,500
1846	VF/XF, rare	525
1849-O	Sm o, original gem UNC	8750
1859-S	Good	105
1859-S	Very choice VF	360
1859-S	Ch. UNC, flat spot on rim	3750
1861-S	F/VF, rare	130
1862-S	VF+, a few hidden marks	185
1864	Choice Fine, rare	385
1865	XF, light roughness, rare	385
1866-S	PCGS-62, nice	3750
1867	VF/XF, nice, very rare	POR

DIMES

1870-S	VF	$425
1871-S	PCGS-62, flat head	900
1873-CC	ARR, very choice AG/G	475
1874-CC	Very nice Good, very rare	POR
1885-S	VG, very rare	585

QUARTERS

1842-O	Sm Dt, Var. 1-A, VG, obv. marks	$345
1842-O	Sm Dt. Var. 1-A, only true known UNC	65,000
1849-O	AG, Var. 1-A, rare	275
1849-O	Fine, Var. 1-A, nice, rare	900
1851-O	VG, Var. 1-B, a few rim bumps	225
1852-O	Var. 1-A, toned choice UNC	12,500
1853	3/3, NA, nice VF, tiny rim bump	485
1860-S	Once mounted, call it G/VG	135
1860-S	Var. 1-A, VG/AG+, unusual wear	185
1864-S	Var. 1-A, mark by date	265
1866	Choice BU, obverse spot	2250
1866-S	Var. 1-A, F/VF, light marks	385
1866-S	Var. 1-A, VF, very rare	600
1867-S	Var. 1-A, F/VF, rare	285
1869-S	Var. 1-A, VG+	160
1871-CC	Var. 1-A, XF detail, light reverse marks	2250
1872-CC	Var. 1-A, G/AG, light marks	170
1872-CC	Var. 1-A, VF, old cleaning	1250

HALF DOLLARS

1842-O	Lg Dt, Choice toned UNC, rare	$5000
1842-O	Sm Dt, Die #1, nice VF/XF	2250
1844-O	1844/1844, original XF, rare	2500
1845-O	Triple date, ANACS CACHE, XF-40	1000
1846	6 over horizontal 6, VG/F	255
1846-O	Tall date, Choice XF	850
1848	PCGS MS-61,nice white coin, rare	875
1870-CC	PCGS, G-6	585
1873	Open 3, NA, choice AG/FR	745

DOLLARS

1842	Choice 8U	$1725
1846-O	AU, a cleaned pale gray, rare	825
1854	XF/AU, dipped, reverse marks	1925
1855	VF/XF, old cleaning, nice, rare	1750
1858	Proof, light field marks, nice	6500
1872-S	XF/AU, old cleaning, light marks	925
1872-CC	Fine, 4 letters of LIBERTY, rare	1250

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Tentative Condition Census and Rarity Ratings for the 1871-CC Liberty Seated Quarter

By

Douglas E. Barr

INTRODUCTION

With a mintage of just 10,890 pieces, the 1871-CC quarter is recognized as one of the key dates in the Liberty Seated quarter series. This date seldom appears on the retail market and during the past 20 years, only 26 examples have been sold at auction. This represents an average only slightly greater than one appearance per year, and one or more years may pass between appearances. Most of the auction appearances have represented coins in lower grades with 64 percent of the coins grading Very Fine or lower. As noted by McCloskey (1986), this date is seldom encountered in grades of Extremely Fine or higher and most surviving examples are "well worn and often damaged from years in circulation." Barr (1988) lists this date as very rare in all grades and notes that most examples are in lower grades. Barr (1988) lists an approximate Rarity Rating of R-5 for the 1871-CC quarter in all grades, as does Briggs (1991).

Over the past two decades, a number of high grade examples of the 1871-CC quarter have appeared on the auction market (Barr, 1990). This has made possible the development of a Tentative Condition Census for this date, and some additional insight regarding the rarity of the 1871-CC quarter in higher grades. Compilation of the Tentative Condition Census entailed reviewing the actual catalog descriptions of each example of this date offered on the auction market in Very Fine or higher condition over the past 20 years. Based on this compilation, outlined below is the author's attempt at a listing of the finer known examples of the 1871-CC quarter, based primarily on auction appearances. Other high grade examples undoubtedly exist, and it is hoped that this listing will stimulate further research and preparation of a more complete census of this rare and extremely desirable date.

Prior to providing the tentative condition census, it would be desirable to provide a complete listing of auction appearances over the 20 years examined. This will place the condition census listing and rarity ratings within the context of auction appearances of the 1871-CC quarter in all grades. In addition, the listing provides the auction price realized which should provide a perspective on the historical price variations in different grades. For example, the three appearances in About Uncirculated all represent the same coin, the Miles Specimen, which increased in price from $1,050 when auctioned in 1976 to $5,170 when last auctioned in 1985.

Table 1.—Listing of Auction Appearances and Prices Realized for the 1871-CC Liberty Seated Quarter for the Period 1972-1991.

Year	Firm	Very Good	Fine	Very Fine	Extremely Fine	About Uncirc.	Uncircu-lated
1973	Stack's				1400		
1973	Superior	90					
1974	Superior	140					
1975	Stack's						10,500
1976	B&R	125				1050	
1976	Pine Tree		330				
1976	Stack's		460	825			
1977	Steve Ivy	310					
1977	Stack's						11,500
1979	Kriesberg			900			
1979	Stack's					3400	
1984	B&M	687	935	990			
1985	B&M		495				
1985	Stack's	797				5170	
1986	Stack's		1210				
1987	B&M				4950		
1988	B&M						28,600
1988	Superior	715					
1989	Heritage			850			
1990	B&M				6820		
1991	Stack's		420				
TOTALS		7	6	4	3	3	3

The average grade of the 26 examples listed above is 25.3 or VF-20 to VF-30. The Uncirculated appearances in 1975 and 1977 are both the James A. Stack Specimen, and the 1988 appearance in Uncirculated is the Norweb Specimen.

TENTATIVE CONDITION CENSUS

1. **Uncirculated. The Norweb Specimen.** Last cataloged as MS-64 to MS-65 by Bowers and Merena Auctions, March 1988. Described as "sharply struck, with satinlike fields, brilliant, overlaid with delicate golden toning." Realized a price of $28,600 with 10 percent buyers fee. Subsequently graded and encapsulated by PCGS as MS-64 and offered on the retail market for $150,000 in 1989. An enlarged photo of the coin is available in the Norweb II catalog.
2. **Uncirculated. The James A. Stack Specimen.** Cataloged as Brilliant Uncirculated Gem by Stack's, March 1975 as part of the James A. Stack Collection. Described as "Wholly proof-like on the obverse and frosty on the reverse. Seagreen russet toning highlights the fire on this pristine specimen." It realized a price of $10,500 in this sale. It subsequently appeared in the Reed Hawn Sale by Stack's in March 1977, and realized a price of $11,500. Ex. Giacomo Opezzo sale by Stack's 1941. M.B. Simons and Associates once owned the coin, and a more complete description and enlarged photo are provided in Jelinski and Simons (1979).
3. **Uncirculated, reported by Breen, 1988. The Eliasberg Specimen.** Ex. Boyd Collection sold by Abe Kosoff as part of the World's Greatest Collection. Reported to be inferior to the James A. Stack Specimen by Jelinski and Simons (1979).
4. **About Uncirculated. R.L. Miles Jr. Specimen.** Last cataloged by Stack's, June 1985, in their June sale. Described as "About Uncirculated, perfectly struck. The surfaces are very nice, some traces of mint luster about the devices." It realized a price of $5,170 with the 10 percent buyers fee. Ex. Stack's, March 1979 when it realized a price of $3,400; Bowers and Ruddy Auctions, The Willing/E.A. Carson Collections, June 1976 where it realized a price of $1,050; Stack's, R.L. Miles Collection, April 1969 where it realized a price of $1,100. Color photo available in Stack's, June 1985 catalog.
5. **Extremely Fine. From the Nate Smith Collection Auction. Stack's, March 1973.** Described as "perfectly struck and absolutely devoid of defects. Lustrous and with some proof-like surfaces. Very nearly equal to the Miles Specimen." Based on examination of the catalog photo, the coin appears to be choice Extremely Fine without any detracting marks. It realized a price of $1,400 in the sale.
6. **Extremely Fine. From the Westchester Collection.** Bowers and Merena Auctions, February 1987. Graded Extremely Fine, EF-40. No descriptive remarks were provided in the auction catalog. However, based on the enlarged photo in the catalog, the coin is mostly mark-free with the exception of a "spot" below the first 1 in the date, and a few other trivial marks on the obverse. It realized a price of $4,950 with the 10 percent buyers fee.
7. **Extremely Fine. From the Chris Schenkel Collection.** Bowers and Merena Auctions, November, 1990. Graded Extremely Fine, EF-40. Described as "Light gray and golden toning over silvery surfaces. Quite well struck for the issue and very attractive overall." For identification purposes, this specimen appears to have two small toning spots at K-5 and K-7 along the obverse rim. Based on the catalog photo, the coin is attractive with no serious detracting marks. It realized a price of $6,820 with the 10 percent buyers fee.

In addition to these, there were four auction appearances in Very Fine over the 20 year survey period. The finest of these was offered as part of the William H. Fenn III collection sold by Stack's in October 1976. The coin was described as "A strictly Very Fine specimen with a hint of proof-like surfaces. It realized a price of $825. Another Very Fine example was sold by Heritage in February, 1989 but was not pictured so the grade could not be confirmed. The other two Very Fine examples were both damaged (gouges/nicks) and one also had a "grandular" planchet.

The listing provided above includes all examples of the 1871-CC quarter that have appeared on the auction market in grades of Extremely Fine or higher during the past 20 years. The exception is the Eliasberg Specimen which did not appear on the auction market during this period, but is included in the Condition Census on the basis of the reference in Breen (1988).

Other examples of the 1871-CC quarter undoubtedly exist in Extremely Fine or better. For example, in a survey of membership holdings of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, two examples were reported in Extremely Fine (Ash 1987). In addition, the author knows of one example that was offered on the retail market in the mid-1980's. These, of course, may not all be different coins, however, in the authors opinion, a rarity rating of R-7 can be safely assigned to the 1871-CC quarter in grades of Extremely Fine and higher, and a rating of R-8 in Uncirculated. A careful review of auction appearances since 1972, and other information sources, has documented the existence of seven examples of the 1871-CC in Extremely Fine or higher. While other examples may exist in these grades, it is extremely doubtful that five additional examples are extant. As a result, the author believes the 1871-CC quarter merits a rating of R-7 in grades of Extremely Fine or higher.

Outlined in Table 2 below is a summary of the Rarity Ratings of the 1871-CC quarter in various grades. In higher grades the Rarity Ratings are based on the information provided above, while the Rarity Rating in all grades is based on previous work by the author (Barr, 1988)

Table 2. — Rarity Ratings for the 1871-CC Quarter.

Grade	Number Rating	Number Surviving	Rarity Description
Uncirculated	R-8	1 - 3	Nearly Unique
Extremely Fine or Higher	R-7	4 - 12	Extremely Rare
All Grades	R-5	31 - 75	Rare

In summary, the Tentative Condition Census for the 1871-CC quarter, based on the auction records for the past 20 years, is comprised of three examples in Uncirculated, one in About Uncirculated, and the remainder in Extremely Fine. The

finest example that has recently been graded is the Norweb Specimen which was graded MS-64 to MS-65 by Bowers and Merena and MS-64 by the Professional Coin Grading Service. The James A. Stack Specimen was graded as a "Brilliant Uncirculated Gem" the last time it was sold in 1977 by Stack's. It is unclear which of these two coins is the finest known, as the Stack Specimen has not been graded using the stricter grading standards that have come into common use since this coin was last sold. In regard to the Eliasberg Specimen, Jelinski and Simons (1979) express the view that the Stack Specimen is the finer of the two coins.

As noted above, it is hoped that the tentative condition census will prompt further research and preparation of a more complete census of the 1871-CC quarter. I would be most appreciative of any comments that LSCC members might have regarding the Condition Census, further descriptive remarks regarding the coins listed in the Tentative Condition Census, or information on other high grade examples of this date. Please send comments/information to Douglas E. Barr, 2632 Nez Perce Trail, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.

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HALF DIMES

1837	Large Date, XF-40	$195
1837	Sm Date, MS-63, sharp	1150
1838-O	G-4	65
1840	No drapery, AU-50	110
1840-O	No drapery, XF-40	60
1841	MS-60, brilliant	175
1842	XF-40	39
1842	AU-58	95
1842-O	VF-25, weak head	225
1843	AU-50	75
1843	AU-55, lustrous	90
1844	MS-62, strong strike	265
1846	XF-40, lightly cleaned	995
1847	AU-50	85
1849-O	F-12	68
1850	AU-50	80
1850-O	MS-60, Large O, sharp	575
1851	AU-50	85
1851-O	AU-50	165
1852-O	AU-50, rose & blue toning	500
1853	NA, MS-60, well struck	535
1853	Arrows, XF-40	39
1853	Arrows, AU-50	79
1853	Arrows, AU-58	100
1854	AU-50	79
1854	MS-60	185
1855	AU-50	79
1856-O	AU-50, V-2	170
1857	XF-40	36
1857	AU, reverse scratch	39
1857-O	AU-50	140
1858	AU-50	69
1858-O	XF-40	59
1859-O	MS-60, minor scratch	300
1860	MS-60	125
1860-O	AU-50, rim nicks	59
1861	AU-55	66
1862	AU-50	65
1865-S	VF-25	35
1867-S	AU-50	215
1868	AU-50	295
1868-S	MS-60	335
1870	MS-61	150
1870	MS-63	295
1871	XF-40	30
1872	AU-50	56

DIMES

1837	F-12, field marks	35
1838	MS-63, Large Stars	800
1838-O	G-4	25
1839	AU-58	175
1840	Drapery, XF-40, gold & blue toning..	238
1842-O	VF-30	35
1843	VF-25	20
1843-O	VF-20	160
1847	VG-10	15
1849	VF-20	25
1849-O	XF-40	195
1851-O	F-12	25
1852	XF-40	35
1853	Arrows, AU-50	115
1853-O	VF-35, rim nick	19
1854	XF-40	33
1855	AU-50, well struck	130
1856	XF-40	32
1857	XF-40	32
1857-O	AU-50, darkly toned	145
1859-O	VF-20	32
1859-O	XF-40	69
1860-O	F-12, rare	650
1860-S	F-12	39
1863	XF-40, rare busines strike	650
1868	XF-45	65
1872	AU-50	92
1873-CC	Arrows, G-4, porous	475
1875	MS-63, nicely struck	250
1875-CC	MS-60, mintmark below wreath ..	285
1876-S	AU-50	48
1877-S	MS-60, full strike	110
1880	XF-45	235
1881	MS-60, fully lustrous	375
1882	MS-60	105
1885	MS-60, weak head	100
1886	MS-60	100
1886-S	MS-60	615
1887	MS-60, full strike	105
1888	MS-63	225
1889	XF-40	19
1889	MS-60	100
1889-S	VF-20	32
1890	AU-50	47
1891	XF-40	18
1891	MS-60	100
1891-O	AU-55	62
1891-S	MS-60	125

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Interesting Counterstamp on 1860-O Dollar Discovered

by

Q. David Bowers

One of the most interesting coins I discovered at the American Numismatic Association Convention last summer in Orlando was that pictured here, an 1860-O Liberty Seated silver dollar, Extremely Fine grade, with two prominent counterstamps on the obverse. Checking references on world coins and counterstamps, I confirmed that this familiar mark, which I had seen many times on other coins but never on an American issue, was impressed by the government of Costa Rica in the late 19th century. Punched from a 7 mm die, the counterstamp depicts at the center a roaring lion (with mouth open), tail in the air, surrounded by two concentric rings between which is inscribed HABILITADA POR EL GOBIERNO, which translates to "paymaster or treasurer for the government." The letters CR are below the base on which the lion stands.

The purpose of the stamp was to indicate official government approval of certain foreign silver and gold coins that circulated in Costa Rica. Writing in *The Numismatist,* September 1919 in his study, "A Trial List of the Countermarked Modern Coins of the World," Frank G. Duffield commented as follows:

"About 1850, coins of Costa Rica and other countries were countermarked with a small lion, 'HABILITADA POR EL GOBIERNO' between two concentric circles, surrounding. This stamp is sometimes found only on one side of the coin; on others, on both sides."

Costa Rican Countermarks on 1860-O Dollar

Duffield noted that various English silver sixpence and shillings pieces were known with this mark, as were numerous silver and gold issues of Costa Rica itself. Further:

"About 1890, coins of half-dollar size of the United States of Colombia were countermarked for use in Costa Rica. The countermark is circular. The center has a small lion, the inscription 'HABILITADA POR EL GOBIERNO' between two concentric lines, surrounding. The reverse stamp has the Costa Rican shield, with 'COSTA-RICA' above. Coins of both the Bogata and Medellin mints were so stamped." For this second issue, Duffield lists various Colombian and Costa Rican silver coins bearing the mark.

The *Standard Catalog of World Coins by* Chester L. Krause and Clifford Mishler is more specific, and illustrates the identical counterstamp seen on the subject 1860-O dollar, and also the counterstamp used on the earlier Costa Rican coinage. The counterstamp as used on the dollar is attributed to the year 1889, and differs from the earlier counterstamp in that the letters CR are below the lion.

Now to the 1860-O dollar: This piece bears two stamps on the obverse, but does not bear the related reverse stamp mentioned by Duffield, with the Costa Rican shield. The literature surveyed as noted makes mention of the 1889 counterstamp existing on Colombian coins and those of Costa Rica itself, but not of the United States denominations.

During the late 19th century, there was a mass exodus of Liberty Seated silver dollars from America. These were exported in quantity beginning in the early 1850s, when the bullion value of silver rose above the face value, and they could no longer circulate domestically. In foreign areas they were valued by weight and were trade coins. I believe that most exported pieces in the 1850s went to the Orient.

From about 1860 to 1862, increasing to flood proportions in 1862, various silver denominations went to the West Indies and Central America. Probably, very few Liberty Seated dollars were among these exports, for, as noted, Liberty Seated dollars had not circulated domestically since the beginning of the previous decade.

The piece illustrated here, struck in 1860, was probably sent to Costa Rica some time after that date, possibly before 1862. If not then, it could have been sent after 1873, when Liberty Seated silver dollars once again began to be seen in the channels of commerce in America, after their bullion value fell below face value for the first time in many years. This coin keeps its secret well, and its exact travels may never be known, except that, presumably, in 1889 it was in Costa Rica and was so stamped, to see service there as a silver piece the equivalent value of 8 Spanish-American reales.

This coin was acquired indirectly from Marvin Jacobson, a Midwestern numismatist who has been of great help to me in the trade dollar section of my forthcoming book, *Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia,* and *who* has had a penchant for counterstamped and countermarked coins, particularly trade dollars chopmarked in the Orient. One way or another, he acquired this piece, and I am grateful that he passed it along to me. At the ANA Convention I showed it to several Liberty Seated specialists, and none had seen anything like it. It remains today an interesting souvenir of an era in which Liberty Seated dollars not only did their duty in the United States, but saw service abroad.

On The Cover

The covers of this issue of the journal present pictures of the obverse and reverse of an 1855-S half dollar in near mint state condition. This piece was auctioned as Lot #403 in the ANA Centennial Auction by Bowers and Merena in August 1991 in Chicago. In the auction catalogue this coin is graded AU-55 and described as follows: Lustrous, frosty surfaces with delicate gray toning. Closely approaching Mint State. Although 129,950 specimens were reported as having been struck, this figure is no way representative of the extant specimens, for the 1855-S is a rarity in any and all grades. What has made the 1855-S so rare? Therein lies a mystery. Perhaps a consignment of them went to the bottom of the sea, a la the Central America situation of 1857 chronicled by the press in recent years. Perhaps many were melted. Perhaps much of the production was exported to the Orient.

The 1855-S was the first half dollar issued at the San Francisco mint and the rarest of the early issues from this western mint. All specimens of this date have a large S mintmark located below the olive stem and the tip of the feather on the reverse. This date is rare in all grades and extremely rare in any grade approaching mint state.

The pictures that appear on the cover were provided by Bowers & Merena Galleries specifically for presentation on the cover of the journal.

The Editor

Liberty Seated Coins for the Collector

After a hiatus of a few months, we are back with a great listing of Liberty Seated coins. This ad is full of new purchases. Feel free to call or FAX your order. When in Maryland, please visit our shop about 20 miles northwest of Baltimore. Thanks for your patronage.

HALF DIMES

1839-O	Recut date, shattered rev. VF+	$100
1840	Drapery, Fine, nice	35
1843	AU-55, prooflike surfaces	80
1848	48/7/6, Breen #3044, EF	130
1861	1/0, overdate, EF, scarce	75
1862	Proof, old cleaning, sharp	125

DIMES

1843	Doubled date, original VF	$65
1846	Fine, original color	120
1846	VF, sharp	250
1849	9/8, G-VG, rare	85
1852-O	F-VF, scarce	45
1852-O	EF, original, very scarce	135
1860-S	F-VF, very scarce	65
1862-S	F+, pleasing	70
1863-S	VG	35
1872	EF-45, choice original	48
1880	F-VF, rare date	185
1886-S	Fine, scarce	50
1888	UNC, lustrous & sharp	100

QUARTERS

1840-O	No Drapery, EF, original	$170
1840-O	Drapery, Choice Fine	45
1842-O	Lg Dt, sharp EF, original	165
1843	AU-55+, choice full luster	275
1844	Choice EF-45, super original	175
1844-O	EF, original & scarce	165
1847	EF/AU, choice original	135
1847-O	VF, a few rim ticks, nice	100
1850-O	EF+, sharp	215
1853	3/4, Good, very scarce	37
1856	AU, lovely original coin	115
1856-O	EF-45, original toning, nice	80
1861	EF/AU, sharp lovely old toning	75
1864	AU-55, choice	425
1864-S	VF, choice & original, rare	800
1865-S	EF, sharp, very scarce	475
1867	VG-F, attractive	200

QUARTERS

1870	VF-EF, original, scarce	$155
1872-CC	VG, choice for grade, rare	475
1872-S	F-VF, choice, no problems, rare	1300
1873-S	VF, nice toning	85
1891	AU-55, gorgeous toning	120

HALF DOLLARS

1839	No Drapery, EF-40, original	$575
1841	EF-45, scarce	260
1842-O	Large Date, AU, dark toning	245
1843	EF-45, shattered reverse	135
1846	Tall Date, Spiked 4, AU	185
1846-O	6/6, Breen #4793, VF+, nice	90
1846-O	Tall Date, Fine, rare	375
1848	EF, scarce	200
1852	AU, very sharp strike, rare	900
1853-O	A&R, AU-55, very sharp strike	975
1854-O	EF-45, super original color	100
1855	EF, sharp	115
1858	AU-55, sharp & choice	145
1859-O	Blundered Date, Breen #4891, VF.	140
1860	EF-AU, lovely old toning	160
1861-S	VF+, large obverse die cracks	90
1864	VF, a few edge bumps, nice	75
1865	AU-55, very sharp	285
1865-S	Recut 1, shattered rev, VF+	85
1865-S	EF, gray toning	75
1868	EF, scarce	265
1870	UNC, lovely color	475
1875-S	Choice AU+, lovely toning	150
1878	EF-45, choice	135
1881	EF-40	300

DOLLARS

1844	VF, original, a few rub marks	$250
1872	Blundered date, Breen #5491, VF+	260

TRADE DOLLARS

1874-CC	Choice UNC, full frosty luster	$2000

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1853 Dimes With Arrows Revisited

by

Gerry Fortin

The abundance of 1853 dimes at most coin shows provides an interesting research opportunity for the serious Seated dime variety collector. Many dealers can produce multiple examples of this date for study because it is the most common date in the Seated dime series. Since arrows were introduced on the obverse dies to highlight a weight reduction from 2.67 grams to 2.49 grams in 1853, variety analysis is further facilitated by studying both date and arrows placement. In Issue #17 of the Gobrecht Journal, John McCloskey identified 8 different Philadelphia dies with arrows. In the "Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Dimes" by Kam Ahwash, 5 varieties were documented. Most recently in 1990, the Lovejoy sale catalogue by Stack's featured additional undocumented varieties. My own research over the past four years has also produced numerous unlisted varieties. It is the intent of this article to present a consolidated summary of all 1853 with arrows die varieties known to me at this time. Hopefully this work will allow other interested numismatists the opportunity to expand their knowledge concerning this date.

Prior obverse die variety identification by McCloskey and Ahwash utilized the Shield Position method by which the position of the 1 in the date was referenced to vertical stripes in the obverse shield. Since this method has been clearly documented in the Ahwash encyclopedia, the reader should address this source for further details as necessary.

In order to facilitate the documentation of subtle date and arrows placement differences between 1853 with arrows varieties, both date and arrows position measurements were taken. For date placement analysis, the shield position (SP), distance of date to base (DDB) and gown pendant position with respect to the 5 digit were recorded. For the left and right arrows, both horizontal and vertical placement data was taken. The horizontal position of the left arrow was recorded by referencing the end of the shaft to the stripes in the obverse shield. This results in a new SP term for the left arrow shaft end. Vertical position measurement of the left arrow is accomplished through placement comparison to the top and/or flag of the 1 in the date. For the right arrow, a similiar horizontal and vertical measurement technique was employed. The horizontal placement of the right arrow is measured as a distance from the 3 in the date. This is identical to data provided by McCloskey and Ahwash in their respective works. Vertical position data for the right arrow is obtained by again referencing the 3 in the date since the shaft of the right arrow points to either the top or middle section of the upper loop in the 3.

To consolidate all known 1853 with arrow obverse die varieties, a review of Ahwash, McCloskey and Lovejoy documentation was performed by translating the individual date and arrows placements into a matrix. My own unlisted obverse varieties were then included for comparison. The consolidated results are shown in Table 1. Only unique obverse die varieties are shown. Where two individuals have documented the same die variety, attribution credit was established in the following order: Ahwash (A), McCloskey (M), Lovejoy (L) and Fortin (F). A total of 17 different 1853 with arrows obverse dies have been identified through this process. Please note that Ahwash designated the 1853 without arrows obverses as A-1 and A-2 in

Table 1

Known 1853 With Arrows Varieties

VARIETY		DATE PLACEMENT			LEFT ARROW POSITION		RIGHT ARROW POSITION	
(A) Ahwash (M) McCloskey (L) Lovejoy (F) Fortin	Grade of Fortin Coin	Distance Date To Base	Shield Position	Pendant To 5 Position	Horiz. Shield Position	Vert. Shaft Position	Horiz. Distance From 3	Vert Shaft Position
A-3	N/A	Medium	SP-5	Right	SP-5	Even with flag of 1	0.2mm	Points at middle of top loop of 3
A-4	F-12	High	SP-6	Right	SP-6	Touches flag of 1	0.2mm	Points at middle of top loop of 3
A-5	MS-63	Medium	SP-6.5	Center	SP-6	Even with top of 1	0.2mm	Points at top of 3
A-6	AU-50	Very High	SP-6.5	Left	SP-6.5	Top of shaft even w/bottom of flag of 1	0.2mm	Points to crotch of 3
A-7	EF-45	Medium	SP-6.5	Center	SP-6.5	Shaft almost touching flag	0.3mm	Points at upper middle of top loop of 3
M-5	AU-50	Medium	SP-6	Left	SP-6	Even with top of 1	<0.1mm	Touches upper loop of 3
M-6	F-12	Medium	SP-6	Center	SP-5	Even with top of 1	0.3mm	Points at top of upper loop of 3
M-8	G-4	Medium	SP-6.5	Left	SP-6.5	Even with flag of 1	<0.1mm	Touches middle of top loop of 3
L-9	N/A	Medium	SP-6	Center	SP-5	Points down to flag	0.3mm	Points at middle of top loop of 3
L-10	N/A	High	SP-6.5	Center	SP-6	Even with top of 1	>0.3mm	Points at top of 3
F-13	EF-40	Medium	SP-5	Right	SP-5	Even with top of 1	0.2mm	Points above top loop of 3
F-14	VF-20	Medium	SP-6.5	Left	SP-6.5	Even with top of 1	0.2mm	Points at top of 3
F-15	VF-30	Medium	SP-7	Left	SP-6.5	Even with flag of 1	<0.1mm	Touches middle of top loop of 3
F-16	VF-20	Medium	SP-6.5	Left	SP-6	Even with top of 1	0.1mm	Points at top of 3
F-17	VF-20	High	SP-6.5	Center	SP-6	Even with flag of 1	0.2mm	Points at middle of top loop of 3
F-18	VF-20	Medium	SP-6.5	Left	SP-6	Even with top of flag	0.2mm	Points at top of 3
F-19	F-15	Medium	SP-7.0	Left	SP-6	Even with top of 1	0.2mm	Points at top of 3

1853 Dime, Variety F-13

1853 Dime, Variety F-14

1853 Dime, Variety F-15

his encyclopedia. Therefore all 1853 with arrows die designations start with A-3 resulting in the Fortin designations at F-13 through F-19.

In Table 2, a cross reference listing of past 1853 with arrows variety identification is shown to help the reader understand where prior documentation overlaps exist. From this table, it is evident that both Ahwash and McCloskey discussed common obverse varieties in their respective articles. Another variety overlap was noted between McCloskey and Lovejoy. It appears that the M-8 obverse, where the right arrow shaft touches the 3 was later referenced as L-8 in the Lovejoy sale.

To further enhance the analysis of 1853 with arrows die varieties, focus was placed on the very common A-5 or M-1 obverse. McCloskey stated in his 1980 Gobrecht Journal article that M-1 is encountered so often that he speculated that this variety represented a whole series of dies manufactured by punching the date and arrows as a single unit. During a discussion with Brian Greer concerning this subject, Brian indicated the possibility that the A-5 obverse is a result of arrows and date being hubbed since no minor placement shifts are evident for these devices.

TABLE 2

1853 With Arrows - Varieties Cross Reference

AHWASH	McCLOSKEY	LOVEJOY	FORTIN	MAJOR FEATURE
A-3	M-7			Left arrow points down at 1
A-4	M-2			Left arrow touches 1
A-5	M-1			Arrows/date hubbed, A-5.1 - A-5.6
A-6	M-3			Very high date
A-7	M-4			Recut arrows
	M-5			— —
	M-6			— —
	M-8	L-8		Right arrow shaft touches 3
		L-9		High 85
		L-10		High date/left arrow over base
			F-13	Date/arrow shifted to left
			F-14	Left arrow over base
			F-15	Date slopes up
			F-16	Left arrow over base
			F-17	High date
			F-18	Left arrow recut
			F-19	— —

1853 Dime, Variety F-16

1853 Dime, Variety F-17

1853 Dime, Variety F-18

As a result of these comments, a closer inspection of A-5 coins in my collection was performed. The results are documented in Table 3. This inspection revealed six different obverse dies based on die crack and/or die scratch variations. Inclusions of these A-5 sub-variety findings into the known obverse die count produces a total of 22 dies. Many more dies remain to be documented however, since Breen stated in his "Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins" that Longacre prepared about 50 pairs of dime dies for Philadelphia Mint coinage.

In summary, research of the common 1853 with arrows date has been a rewarding experience for this collector. I will continue to search for additional unlisted obverses of this date in order to obtain further knowledge in the Seated dime series. I would sincerely appreciate the help of other LSCC members in the task. If any club members feel that they own an 1853 with arrows coin not designated in Table 1, please write to me as follows: Gerry Fortin, 225 Valley Rd., Raymond, Maine 04071.

Photographs of the F-13 through F-19 1853 dime varieties were taken by Tom Mulvaney.

TABLE 3

A-5 1853 With Arrows Sub-Varieties

Sub-Variety	Grade Coin	Obverse Description
A-5.1	MS-63	Die crack from base of 1 up thru left arrow and base of rock exiting at rim at K-8. Crack from S1 to S2. Crack from rim near S2 to S3 and S4. Crack across upper body of liberty starting at left elbow up thru neckline near clasp and ending below ear. Crack S8 thru cap to S9. Crack starting below right arrow to base at foot.
A-5.2	AU-50	Die crack at base of digits in date. Crack starting below left arrow thru arrow, base and to S1. Crack from S7 thru head, S8, cap and proceeding around rim to S13. Crack from foot to rim.
A-5.3	EF-45	Die crack from rim below 8 thru base of 1 to left arrow. Crack S1 thru S5. Crack S6 to S7 then thru head, S8, cap, S9 and exiting to rim above S10. Clashed die.
A-5.4	VF-30	Die crack from S7 thru top of head, S8, extreme top of cap and exiting to rim above S9. Crack from left base of 1 to rim.
A-5.5	EF-45	Die crack from rim below 1 up thru left arrow to edge of rock. Die crack from rim to S1. Crack S1 thru S7 and to head. Die crack S8 to flag, S9 and exiting rim at S10. Die crack at base of date. Die crack foot to rim at S13.
A-5.6	EF-40	Die scratches below left arrow. Two parallel to arrow shaft. First scratch from base of 1 to rim. Second from bottom of arrow to rim.

1853 Dime, Variety F-19

Convention Conversations, Fall 1992

by

Larry Briggs

This column is intended to provide answers to questions that have been raised at recent numismatic conventions. I hope that the information provided will be helpful to all club members interested in the study of Liberty Seated Coinage.

Q. How do you distinguish the 1839-O dime, Reverse of 1838-O from the other 1839-O dimes with the Large O mintmark? DV

A. First of all, the 1839-O dime, Reverse of 1838-O is referred to as the Huge O variety in technical terms by Brian Greer in his new guide to Liberty Seated Dimes. The height of the Huge O mintmark is 1.2 mm. For the other Large O varieties of this date the mintmark measures 1.1 mm. This is not a major difference in the actual size of the mintmarks, but once you familiarize yourself with a few subtle differences in the dies, you will be able to immediately identify the 1839-O Huge O variety.

On the obverse, the 1839-O dime, Reverse of 1838-O shows weakness in the first three stars on the left due to die polishing as well as a slight weakness in the 18 in the date. On the reverse the Huge O mintmark is perfectly centered under the left upright of the M in DIME with a slight tilt to the right. Also, the Huge O mintmark will be fatter than the Large O, almost matching the O in OF in size and shape. The Huge O variety also has a die crack that runs from the left top serif of the U in UNITED to the rim. Sometimes there is a die crack that runs from the right base of the R in AMERICA to the wreath.

Hunting for Half Dimes?

HALF DIMES			HALF DIMES			HALF DIMES		
1837	Sm Ot VF	$70	1853	Arr, VF+	$18	1859-O	F+	$24
1838	AU	125	1853	Arr, XF	38	1859-O	VF	38
1839-O	Medium O, VF+	32	1853	Arr, XF+	42	1860	XF	28
1840-O	ND, G	8	1853	Arr, AU	80	1860-O	G	5
1840-O	ND, VF	35	1853	Arr, AU+	115	1860-O	F+	24
1841	G	5	1853-O	Arr, G	6	1860-O	XF+	60
1841-O	G	8	1853-O	Arr, G+	8	1860-O	AU	85
1841-O	G+	12	1853-O	Arr, VG	9	1861	F+	9
1841-O	XF	95	1853-O	Arr, VF	23	1861	VF	14
1841-O	XF+	125	1853-O	Arr, VF+	30	1861	XF	28
1842	VG+	7	1853-O	Arr, XF	48	1861	XF+	32
1842	AU	85	1854	G	5	1861/O	G+	23
1843	VG	6	1854	VG	7	1862	VG+	7
1843	F	9	1854	XF	38	1862	F+	9
1843	XF	40	1854	XF+	42	1862	XF+	32
1843	XF+	45	1854-O	G	6	1862	AU	60
1844	G	5	1854-O	VG+	8	1863	G	115
1844	VF+	24	1855	G	5	1863	VG	150
1844	AU+	125	1855	F+	10	1863-S	G	12
1845	G	5	1855	VF	15	1864-S	G	28
1845	G+	6	1855-O	VF+	50	1865-S	AU	275
1845	VF+	20	1856	VG+	7	1866	AU	525
1845	XF+	45	1856	VF+	22	1866-S	G	15
1847	VG	6	1856	XF	38	1866-S	VG+	18
1847	VG+	7	1856-O	G	8	1866-S	XF	85
1847	F	9	1856-O	XF	68	1866-S	XF+	95
1847	VF	17	1857	VF+	22	1866-S	AU+	375
1847	XF	40	1857	XF	38	1867	AU	700
1847	XF+	45	1857	AU	80	1867-S	G	12
1848-O	G	10	1857-O	VF	32	1867-S	VG	18
1849/6	XF+	80	1857-O	XF	48	1867-S	F	30
1849-O	G	18	1857-O	XF+	60	1867-S	VF	55
1849-O	VF+	195	1858	G	5	1868-S	G+	11
1851-O	G	7	1858	G+	6	1868-S	F+	16
1851-O	VG+	10	1858	F	9	1868-S	VF	20
1852	VG+	7	1858	F+	10	1868-S	XF	40
1852	VF+	24	1858	VF	15	1869	XF	50
1852	XF	40	1858	XF	38	1869-S	G	6
1852	XF+	45	1858	Inverted, G	25	1869-S	VG+	8
1852	AU+	150	1858-O	F+	15	1869-S	XF	60
1852-O	G	18	1858-O	XF	55	1870	G+	6
1852-O	VG	28	1859	F	12	1870	F	9
1852-O	VF	115	1859	VF+	30	1871	F	8
1853-O	NA, G	160	1859-O	G+	10	1871	XF	25
1853-O	NA, F+	245	1859-O	VG	12	1871-S	VF+	45
1853	Arr, VG	6	1859-O	F	20	1872	AU	50
						1873-S	XF	38

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Estimates for the Number of Mint State 1859-O and 1860-O Dollars in Existence

by

Weimar W. White

A few, mostly circulated, bags of Liberty Seated dollars were distributed by the government during the 1962 to 1963 period when hundreds of 1,000 dollar mint sown bags of Morgan dollars were released to the public. It is known that some uncirculated 1859-O and 1860-O silver dollars appeared in this release. However there are conflicting estimates today by numismatists as to how many of these dollars were actually released to the public. Presently, estimates range from one mixed bag of these two dates to a total of 9,000 pieces for both dates.

In the absence of any concrete evidence to help us solve this mystery, we are forced to use the available population data published by the grading services to obtain reliable estimates for the number of pieces available of these two dates. Hearsay evidence as a source of information can provide interesting points for discussion, but it is not especially useful for analysis because it is based mostly on opinions. Therefore, the methods used in this article to estimate the number of existing mint state 1859-O and 1860-O dollars will be based on mathematical methods in an attempt to shed some light on the issue. While a mathematical appreach should be more accurate than hearsay evidence, it is still subject to errors since we are not counting actual coins. However, by approaching the problem from several different angles, the mathematical method adds a degree of credibility to the resulting estimates.

Case I

The method used in Case I involves the 1895-S Morgan dollar as a reference coin to help us get estimates for the number of 1859-O and 1860-O mint state dollars in existence. A concensus of numismatic scholars indicates that 1,000 uncirculated specimens of the 1895-S dollar were sold as part of the Redfield hoard in 1976. Before this one bag appeared, this date was considered a true rarity with just a handful of mint state examples available. The same was true for 1859-O and 1860-O dollars prior to 1962.

The mint state 1895-S dollars were sold to the public mostly through Paramount and have long since been absorbed into the coin market. In this study, we were forced to leave the Liberty Seated dollar series in search of reference dollars that could he compared directly to the 1859-O and 1860-O dates. This was necessary because of the unusual way in which these coins came onto the rare coin market. With this introduction in mind, consider the following data:

Number of Mint State Specimens Graded

Population Report	Date		
	1859-O	1860-O	1895-S
PCGS and NGC[1]	184	269	435

Proportions are then created by taking the ratio of the number of pieces graded to the number of specimens extant in comparison with the 1895-S dollar. By solving these proportions on the above data, we get the following:

Date	Proportion	Estimate
1859-O	$\frac{184}{x} = \frac{435}{1{,}000}$	x = 423 pieces
1860-O	$\frac{269}{x} = \frac{435}{1{,}000}$	x = 618 pieces

Case II

The same approach was used for another reference dollar, namely the 1879-S with the reverse of 1878 or the second reverse. It is known that 3,000 mint state examples of this variety were sold as part of the Redfield hoard[2]. Again, this interesting variety was rare before this release and most known examples seen today are from this source[3]. The following proportions are given to estimate the number of 1859-O and 1860-O mint state dollars extant. Population report totals indicate that 1141 examples of the 1879-S dollar with the second reverse were graded by PCGS and NGC.

Date	Proportion	Estimate
1859-O	$\frac{184}{x} = \frac{1141}{3{,}000}$	x = 483 pieces
1860-O	$\frac{269}{x} = \frac{1141}{3{,}000}$	x = 707 pieces

Case III

The third approach to estimate the number of mint state 1859-O and 1860-O dollars extant is not based on the use of reference coins. Rather, we will use the percent of uncirculated encapsulated Liberty Seated dollars from the series sold at auction in 1991. For example, the Auction Prices Realized for 1991 shows that 39.2% of the uncirculated Liberty Seated dollars sold at auction were encapsulated. Also, 39.8% of all the proof Liberty Seated dollars sold at auction in 1991 were slabbed. Therefore, if we divide the number of 1859-O and 1860-O mint state dollars given in the PCGS and NGC population reports by 0.392, we can get another approximation of the quantities extant. For these two dates:

Date	Ratio	Estimate
1859-O	$x = \frac{184}{0.392}$	x = 469 pieces
1860-O	$x = \frac{269}{0.392}$	x = 686 pieces

Comparison of Ratios for 1859-O and 1860-O Dollars

A study of the numbers of 1859-O and 1860-O dollars sold at auction from 1972 through 1978 and from 1981 through 1991 showed that 249 examples of the 1859-O were sold and 363 examples of the 1860-O were sold. This gives a ratio of 1.46 examples of the 1860-O dollar for every 1859-O dollar sold.

The same ratio was seen when the PCGS and NGC 1991 population date were compared. There were 184 examples of the 1859-O dollar compared to 269 examples of the 1860-O dollar. Identical ratios from two separate sources of information establishes the relative availability of these dates in the rare coin market.

Table I

Estimates for the Number of Mint State 1859-O and 1860-O Dollars in Existence

Date	Case	Estimate	Average Estimate
1859-O	I	423	
1859-O	II	483	458
1859-O	III	469	
1860-O	I	618	
1860-O	II	707	670
1860-0	III	686	

Conclusion

The three cases presented and the results tabulated in Table I strongly suggest that a total of fewer than 1,300 examples of the 1859-O and 1860-O dollars exist in mint state. If 9,000 mint state specimens were released in the 1960s, sizeable hoards must still remain in hiding. After 30 years, one would expect that most of these coins would be in the hands of collectors and actively traded. The auction records for the 1860-O dollar since 1972 do not show an increase over the years in the frequency at which these coins appeared for sale in the catalogs. Therefore, it does not appear that there has been an increase in the number of these dollars coming into the market during the last 20 years.

Expensive coins have a way of surfacing with time if they are not in strong hands. Therefore the writer concludes that there is a high probability that the number of these dollars extant lies somewhere near the low end of the estimate range provided currently by numismatists.

References

1. PCGS, Population report, August 1991 and the NGC Population Report, February 1991.
2. Rare Coin Review No. 71, article on the "Flat-Chested Eagle" 1879-S Dollar, 1988.
3. Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins, page 449, Doubleday, 1988.
4. Auction Prices Realized for 1991, Krause Publications, 1992.

LSCC Regional Meeting at FUN Convention

There will be an Eastern Regional meeting of LSCC at the FUN Convention in January 1993. The meeting will be held at 9:00 AM on Friday, January 8, 1993 in Orlando, Florida during the FUN Convention. The meeting will be held at the Convention Center in Orlando with the location of the meeting being announced in the Convention program. We hope that LSCC members will take this opportunity to gather and exchange information on Liberty Seated coins.

The Editor

HALF DIMES

1840-O	ND, Open Bud Reverse, G	$225
1845	1845/1845, XF-45, original	95
1847	47/47, VF, cleaned, rim repair	15
1854	WA, XF-45, choice original	52
1854-O	AU-58+, super luster	345
1855	AU, choice original	75

DIMES

1841	VF-30, unlisted, SP-7.5	$30
1841	1841/18, VG, original	12
1841-O	Small o, XF, unlisted	75
1842	A-3, XF, original	175
1843	A-4, VF, original	22
1843-O	F++, medium gray toning	100
1845	1845/1845, some roughness	40
1845-O	XF/AU, original, very rare	750
1846	VF-35+, very rare	690
1848	XF-45+, strong luster	145
1849	AU-55+, old cleaning	225
1852	A-1, F+, choice original	12
1852-O	A-1, VF-30/35, original	125
1853	WA, VF-35, rotated reverse	28
1853	WA, VF-35, M-1	28
1856	Small Date, XF	32
1856	Small Date, XF, rim cud, cleaned	25
1856	18/18, A-4, VG	10
1856-O	56/56, date recut up, VF-35	80
1856-O	56/5, date recut up, F/VF	32
1857	VF-30, original	13
1857	1/1, A-2, VF-30	20
1857-O	A-2, VF, medium gray	21
1862	AU-55+, reverse die gouge	165
1862-S	XF+, very rare	235
1863-S	F/VG, nice original	36
1865-S	A-1, VF/F, original, dark	65
1869-S	AU, unlisted	140
1870	O/O, BU-63+, rare	650

DIMES

1871	A-2, XF, light blue toning	$35
1871-S	18/18, AU, nice	400
1872	XF, unlisted	40
1873	NA, Open 3, VF, original	65
1873-S	Block s, VF+	70
1873-S	Block s, F	32
1875	XF, cleaned, rolled edge	12
1876-CC	Double die obverse, F-18	90
1876-CC	Double die obverse, VG	18
1876-CC	Double die obverse, Good	10
1876-CC	Double die reverse, Good	6
1876-CC	Double die reverse, VF/F	15
1876-CC	Type II reverse, VG, rare	45
1876-CC	6 In drapery, XF/VF-30, obv. mark	35
1876-S	Counterstamped I.P.A. F+	10
1877-S	BU+, very scarce	150
1882	BU-63++, broken top 2	375
1884-S	AU-55, very nice	275
1886	86/86, F+, cleaned	15
1887-S	S/S, VF/F, cleaned	32
1887-S	XF	20
1887-S	VF-35	14
1889-S	AU+	215
1889-S	XF	65
1889-S	VF	32
1890	F/VF, original, gray toning	7
1891	XF+, choice original	21
1891-S	VF, some toning	10

QUARTERS

1841-O	AG/G, original	$8
1842-O	Lg Dt. F/VF, original	45
1845	F, original, medium gray	22
1853	3/4, early die state, AG	20
1877	77/77, unlisted, ANACS XF-45	90
1877-S	VF+, light gray, nice	25

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A Late State 1855-O V-1A Half Dime

by

John E. Zitz

I recently purchased what I believe to be an example of a late die state of an 1855-O V-1A half dime. Valentine makes mention of this die variety when he states " Same as V-1, but stars and Liberty cap on right are connected by crack". My coin does show the cracks mentioned by Valentine but it also has many other breaks not mentioned in his description. Since he did not mention these additional cracks in his description, I have to believe that the examples he observed of this variety did not display them. I would like to take this opportunity to describe the die cracks visible on my coin.

As indicated by Valentine, a die break extends from the back of Liberty's head through the 8th star and on through the cap and connects the star points of the 9th to the 13th stars on the right. But on my coin the crack from the back of the head

extends out in the form of two parallel breaks with the lower break extending to an inner point of the 8th star. This break also extends back through the head and exits in the lower forehead area. There are also two light breaks that extend out from the two outer points of the 12th star. The upper break extends up to the 11th star while the lower one extends down to the rim.

There is an unlisted die break that extends from the lower forehead area to the 7th star and then faintly connects the points of the 1st through the 7th stars on the left. Another unlisted die break extends from Liberty's toe and runs through the denticles and on to the rim. Near the denticles this crack breaks, with the lower extension going into the denticles.

A few comments on the positioning of the date and arrows will be provided to complete the description of the obverse of this variety. The 1855 numerals in the date are not too close to one another and evenly spaced. The four numerals are positioned slightly closer to the rock base than the denticles below. Both arrow heads are large. The upper tips of both arrows touch the rock base, while the points of both arrows extend out very close to the denticles. The left arrow shaft is slightly above the upper serif of the 1. The right arrow shaft is in line with the flag on the second 5 in the date.

The reverse of my coin was struck from a nice clean problem free reverse die. The lettering could easily be described as slender as suggested by Valentine in his description of this reverse. The O mintmark appears large and thin and is positioned somewhat low.

It is hoped that this description will extend the documentation of this variety beyond the original report provided by Valentine. This article will also provide other members with an opportunity to report their observations on this date relative to the extended die state information that I have provided.

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Choice Seated Coins From Brian

The following list is only a small portion of my current inventory. Please call or write for a complete listing.

HALF DIMES

1839-O	VG, Large O	$625
1842-O	Fine, toned	48
1849-O	Fine+, nice	90
1853	NA, Fine, toned	65
1853-O	NA, VG, rare	185
1863	VF	210
1868	F/VF	85
1872	XF, doubled die obverse	125

DIMES

1838-O	VF, RPM, O/O	$205
1838-O	NGC AU-55, RPM, O/O	1050
1840	WD, VF, nice	140
1843	Choice VF, 1843/1843	30
1843	AU, 1843/1843	210
1845-O	Choice VF-20	145
1848	VF	30
1849-O	Ch. VF, 184/184, nice	110
1850-O	XF, Medium O, rare	170
1852-O	Abt XF, nice	125
1853	NA Abt XF	195
1856	Ch. AU, doubled die obverse	175
1856-O	XF, Large O	70
1857-O	AU, Medium O, rare	195
1859-S	VG	120
1859-S	VF, gem for grade	385
1863	Abt XF, rare	685
1864	VF, rare	465
1865	Ch. VF+, nice	600
1865-S	XF/AU, dipped	185
1870-S	Fine, choice	360
1872-S	PCGS MS-61, prooflike, rare	1050
1876-CC	VF, Type 2 reverse	105
1878-CC	VF, Type 1 reverse	135
1878-CC	VF++, shattered reverse	165
1880	XF-	220
1886-S	VF	80
1889	NGC MS-64, sharp	395

QUARTERS

1841	F/VF, a few tiny ticks	$80
1849-O	VG-, problem free	425
1850	VF	80
1850-O	VF+	105
1851-O	Ch.VF, nice	525
1853	3/4, VF	95
1863	VF	70
1864	XF	220
1865-S	VF+, a gem	285
1867	AU, toned	495
1869	Fine-12	325
1870	VF	135
1872	Fine, nice	37
1872-CC	Fine, choice	775
1873-S	Ch. VF, nice	130
1874-S	Fine-12	37
1877-S	Abt XF, S over horizontal S	135
1878-CC	XF/AU	95
1890	Fine, nice	70
1890	VF, nice	90

HALF DOLLARS

1840	VG, Medium Letters	$135
1840-O	VF, Small o, cracked reverse	80
1846	Tall Date, VF, great toning	57
1846-O	Tall Date, VG	210
1850	AU	695
1852	AU, light toning	785
1855	5/4, VF-20	90
1857-S	Ch. XF, nice	450
1858-O	XF, blundered date, quad 8	85
1859-O	Abt XF, 9 in denticles	65
1879	XF/AU	395
1883	XF-40	330
1887	VF, rare	510

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A Third Variety Discovered for the 1858-S Dime

by

Scott G. Grieb

In my article on the 1858-S dime that appeared in Issue #53 of the journal, I described a second variety for this rare early San Francisco issue. This new variety was not listed in the Ahwash encyclopedia of Liberty Seated dimes and I called it the 1858-S A-2 variety. I asked club members to send alone any information or comments that they might wish to make on this rare date in Issue #53 of the journal. I would like to take this opportunity to report on the responses that I received. Surprisingly, this additional information even included the documentation of the existence of a third variety for this rare date with a mintage of only 60,000 pieces.

The first piece of information on this date came from the auction catalog of the Spring Quartette Sale by Bowers and Merena in March 1992. Lot #2246 of this sale was an 1858-S dime in AU-55 condition with a catalog description note that " careful examination under magnification reveals a repunched top to the S mint mark". This comment intrigued me so I contacted LSCC member Frank Van Valen who wrote the catalog description for Bowers and Merena. He was kind enough to reply that " the repunching at the mintmark is inside the upper loop of the S, and probably faded from the die soon after the mintage began". He also added that the dime in the sale had shield position SP-7. The designation SP-7 is a convention introduced by Ahwash indicating that the left edge of the serifs of the 1 in the date are in line with the 7th vertical stripe in the obverse shield, counting from the left. The reported shield position of SP-7 for the coin in the March 1992 sale strongly suggests that this dime is an example of the A-2 variety. Unfortunately, the auction took place before the publication of Issue #53 of the journal so a positive

identification could not be made. Nevertheless, it should be noted that first strike examples of the A-2 variety might show repunching of the mintmark. However, please note that my own example of this variety does not show any evidence of this repunching.

The second piece of information concerns the documentation of a third obverse variety for the 1858-S dime. At the Central States Convention in Minneapolis in May, John McCloskey apologized for not including a picture of his 1858-S dime with my article in Issue #53 of the journal. We had both assumed that his coin was an example of the A-1 variety described by Ahwash and had agreed to include a picture of it for comparison with my newly identified A-2 variety. But John said that he had good reason for not including the picture of his coin with my article. He had examined his coin to verify that it was really an example of the A-1 variety only to discover that he could not match it up with the description of either the A-1 variety or the A-2 variety. After the LSCC meeting at the convention in Minneapolis, we examined close up pictures of his dime and compared them to pictures of the two known varieties. We studied them long enough to identify several reference points that verified the existence of a third obverse variety for the 1858-S dime.

The third variety was first identified by John McCloskey and will be designated as the A-3 variety. It has shield position SP-8 and the skirt pendant falls just to the left of the center of the 5. These features make the new variety very similar to the A-1 variety described in the Ahwash encyclopedia but a difference in the obverse dies can be detected by the position of the date digits relative to the denticles. The A-3 variety has the left edge of the upright of the 1 over the gap between two denticles with the left edge of the lower serif of the 1 over the left half of a denticle. The A-1 variety has the left edge of the upright of the 1 over the left half of a denticle with the left edge of the lower serif of the 1 over the center of a denticle. The A-1 variety also has the 1 in the date closer to the denticles than the base of the rock while the 1 in the date appears to be almost centered between the denticles and the base of the rock for the A-3 variety.

1858-S A-3 Dime

Another difference in obverse dies of the A-1 and A-3 varieties can be seen in the pattern of die chips around the obverse stars. An examination of the picture of the A-1 variety in the Ahwash encyclopedia shows that there is a prominent die chip beyond the inside upper point of the 13th star. Variety A-3 does not show this die chip at the 13th star. The A-1 variety also has a die crack connecting the 4th, 5th and 6th stars on the left while the A-3 variety shows no obverse die cracks.

After careful examination, the reverse of the A-3 variety appears to be identical to the reverse of the A-1 and A-2 varieties. However, two die cracks have been identified on the reverse of the A-3 dime. The stronger die crack extends down from the rim to the left side of the E in STATES. The weaker crack extends down from the rim to the left side of the second T in STATES.

The last piece of information came from Brian Greer who called to ask if I knew about crumbling on the obverse of 1858-S dimes. Brian had one example of the A-2 variety which showed crumbling at the denticles by the 6th star and more crumbling between the inside lower rays of the 9th and 10th stars. He reported that he had another example of this variety which showed crumbling only at the denticles by the 6th star. The die crumbling manifests itself as two small nodes of metal at the denticles by the 6th star and as a raised piece of metal filling in the space between the inside lower rays of the 9th and 10th stars. My A-2 coin displays the crumbling by the 6th star and the filling at the 9th star but it shows no defect at the 10th star.

All of this information is rather detailed, but each of the three varieties can now be quickly identified as follows:

1858-S Variety

A-1 Shield position, SP-8. Possible die crack connecting 4th, 5th and 6th stars. Large die chip beyond inside upper ray of 13th star. Reverse is perfect.

A-2 Shield position, SP-7. Possible die crumbling first seen at denticles by 6th star, extending to inside lower rays of 9th star and finally to inside lower rays of 10th star. Reverse is perfect. First strikes may display recutting in the upper loop of the S mintmark.

A-3 Shield position, SP-8. The 1 in the date almost centered between the denticles and the base of the rock. No obverse die cracks. No die chip beyond inside upper ray of 13th star. Reverse has possibly two die cracks, one running from the rim to the left side of T3 and the other from the rim to the left side of E2.

The new information presented in this article provides the basis for a possible emission order for the three varieties of the 1858-S dime. All three obverses were apparently paired with the same reverse die to strike the three varieties. I would speculate that the A-2 variety may have been struck first. This opinion is based on the recutting reported in the mintmark of this variety. The recutting would have worn away with die use, indicating that this was a very early die state of this reverse die. Perhaps the AU-55 specimen auctioned by Bowers and Merena in March was one of the very first dimes struck in San Francisco in 1858. It is known that the A-2 obverse die began to crumble so it could have been replaced by the A-1 obverse die. The same reverse die continued to be used but by now it showed no evidence of the

repunching in the mintmark. It is known that the A-1 obverse die began to crack along the stars on the left side of the obverse. The A-1 obverse die could then have been replaced by the A-3 obverse die. The same reverse die continued to be used but by now it showed signs of die wear and began to crack. Thus a possible emission sequence would be, A-2, A-1 and finally A-3.

The relative availability of these three varieties is difficult to determine due to the small number of coins examined. All three varieties seem to be available, with Brian Greer reporting a second example of the A-3 variety after carefully checking his holdings. I would like to ask LSCC members who own 1858-S dimes to report their die characteristics and to identify their die variety. With this information we will be able to refine the emission sequence of the three varieties and more accurately determine their relative availability.

Walter Breen reports that four sets of dime dies were sent to San Francisco in 1858. With three varieties now known to exist, yet another variety may still be discovered.

I would like to thank Tom Mulvaney for the beautiful pictures of the newly identified 1858-S A-3 dime.

The Complete Guide to

LIBERTY SEATED DIMES

A Reference Book

by

Brian Greer

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New Liberty Seated Dime Purchases and Variety Duplicates

DIMES		
1838	VG-10+, Greer #104, nice gray toning	$15
1839	VG-10, A-3, reverse rotated 30 degrees, light toning	15
1839-O	VF-20, A-6, early die state, reverse rim nick	26
1839-O	G/VG, A-6, late die state, even gray	5
1842-O	F-12, A-4, Small o, even gray, scarce	25
1845	F-12, Doubled date, Breen #3249, nice golden toning	40
1845	VF-30+, A-5, bisecting reverse crack, two tiny rim cuts	30
1845-O	VF-30+, choice, even light gray toning	245
1847	F-12, A-3, even toning, some small marks	21
1848	EF-40, A-1, blue & gray obverse toning	60
1848	EF-40,A-2, scarce variety, dipped but nice	39
1849	EF-40, A-1, Thin date, problem free, chin whiskers	45
1850-O	VF-20, A-4, Small o, even gray & brown toning, choice	85
1852	EF-40, A-1, even light gray, problem free	35
1852	VG-8, A-3,no problems	5
1852	VG-10, A-4, recut date, bold recutting in date	18
1852	EF-45, A-4, recut date, blue & tan mottled toning	80
1852-O	F/VF, A-1, even gray & brown toning, choice	35
1853	WA, F-15, Fortin-14, left arrow over base	11
1854	EF-40, deep blue & red toning, choice	35
1856	F-15, Small date, unlisted variety, light golden toning	12
1870	AU-50+, A-3, recut 0, lightly cleaned, recutting on 8	85
1870-S	VF-30+, even brown toning, very choice	460
1872	VF-30, Greer #101, doubled date, bold recutting	30
1873-S	VG-8+, gray, problem free with full LIBERTY	20
1874	F-15, a few tiny reverse marks	19
1875-CC	AU-50, wide CC, lustrous, nice	60
1876-CC	MS-60+, unlisted rusty obverse die, light toning	175
1877	VF-20, Type 1 reverse, small mark above date	12
1877-S	F-12, A-2, recut 1, even gray	7
1887	EF-40, silver & gray toning	18
1890-S	F-15, Medium S, even gray	19

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1841	AG-3	$3
1847	G/Fr-2	3
1852-O	VG-10, V-1	35

DIMES

1838	XF-45, small stars	$130
1841	G-4	4
1841-O	AG-3, Small o	4
1846	46/46, VF-20	200
1849	9/8, AG-3, cleaned	6
1853	F-15	6
1856	VG-8	6
1874	VG-8	7
1891-O	VF-30	8
1891-S	F-12	6

QUARTERS

1844-O	F-12	$30
1845	F-12, cleaned	15
1847	VF-20	30
1852	VG-10, five letters of LIBERTY	60
1855	VG-10, five letters of LIBERTY	12
1856	G/AG	5
1856	VF-30	28
1859	VG-10, five letters of LIBERTY	14
1861	F-12	15
1876-S	VF-20	20

HALF DOLLARS

1846	G-4, Tall Date	$20
1846-O	6/6, VG-10	155
1848-O	G-6, Breen #4811, Open 4	85
1849-O	VG-6	12
1855	5/4, G-4, Breen #4858	30
1858	VG-10	14
1859-O	G-4	12
1872	VG-10	20
1877-S	VF-20, no drapery	35
1877-S	S/S/S, G-4, old cleaning	30
1877-S	S/S/S, XF-40, Breen #5010	120

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1877	AG-3, chop mark, porous	$15

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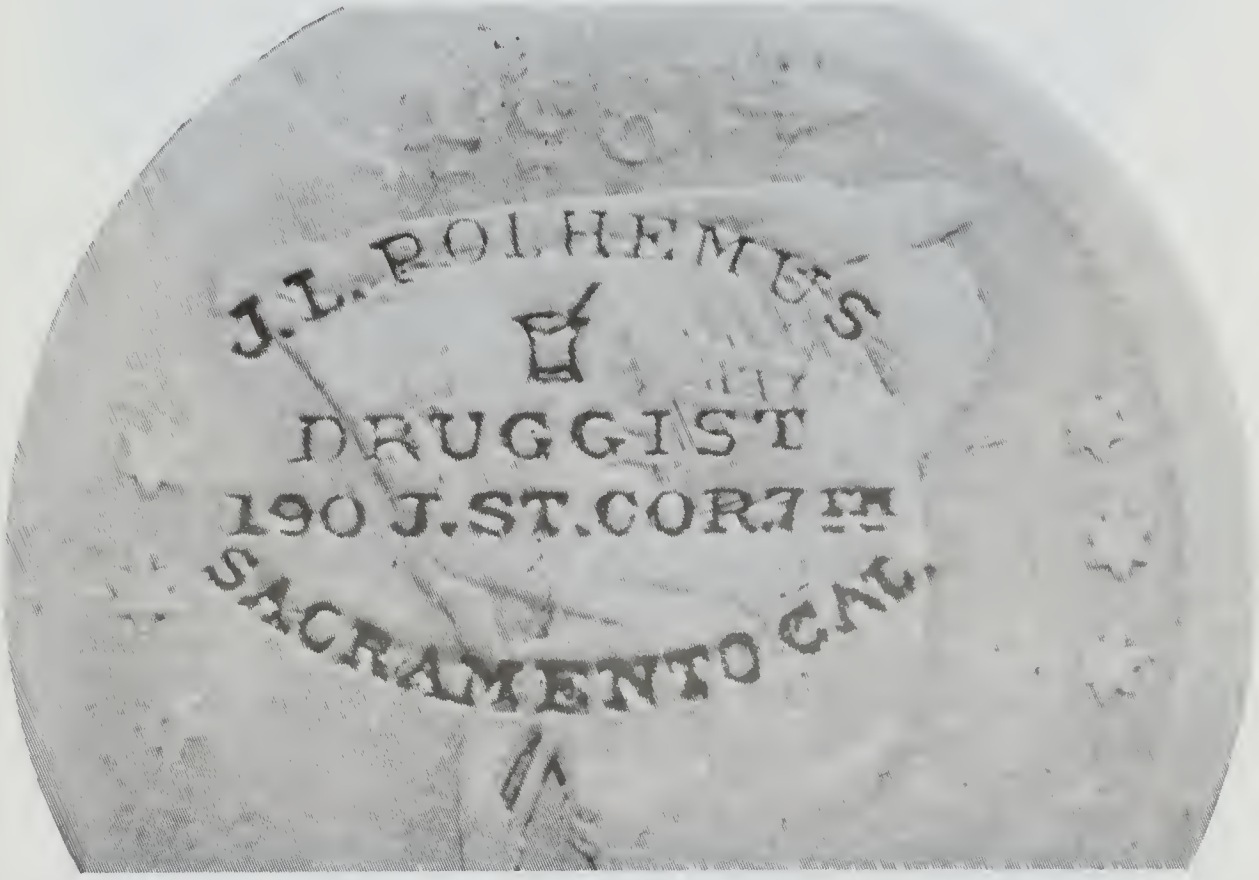
Some Countermarked Coins Used to Advertise Business Services

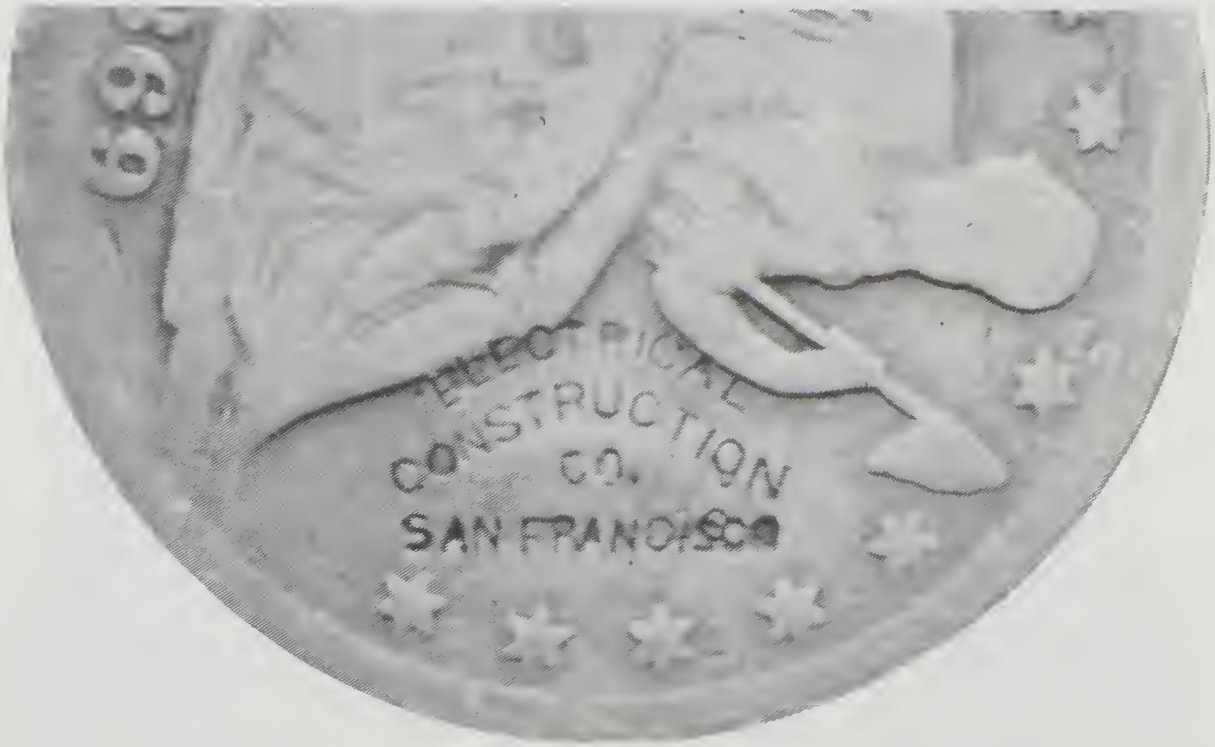
by

Donald Helfer



During the middle of the 19th century it was not unusual for merchants to advertise their business by countermarking circulating coinage. These countermarked coins would pass through the hands of many people, each time providing a message for services that might be needed by a 19th century citizen. Many of these countermarks are well known and seen on a wide variety of coins. Others are very rare with their origins still unknown. I would like to take this opportunity to present examples of a few countermarked coins that I have purchased. I believe that these interesting pieces are an important part of our American culture.

The first of these countermarked coins advertises the services of druggist J.L. Pohemus during the gold rush era in central California. Shown with this article is the picture of an 1855-S quarter with the countermark J.L. POLHEMUS/DRUGGiST/ 190 J.ST.COR.7TH/SACRAMENTO CAL. A mortar and pestle also appears in the countermark below the name Polhemus. This countermark appears on a number of Liberty Seated coins and is known on dimes, quarters, half dollars and dollars of this period. The countermark also appears on a number of foreign coins which were legal tender in the old west during the 1850s. Dr. Polhemus came to Sacramento in 1849 and established a drug store at the corner of J. St. and 7th St. in 1850. The coins with this countermark were probably stamped some time during the middle 1850s.



Many other countermarked coins are known from this period but some of these have proven to be very rare. A picture is shown of an 1869-S half dollar with the countermark ELECTRICAL/CONSTRUCTION/CO./SAN FRANCISCO. This countermark is listed by Gregory Brunk in his book "American and Canadian Countermarked Coins". One other example of this countermark is known on an 1868 half dollar. Also shown is a picture of an 1856-O half dollar with the completely unkown countermark HOPPE'S/CHINA HALL. Does anyone have any information on the source of this countermark?

Most countermarks of this period were stamped on Liberty Seated quarters and half dollars. These denominations circulated freely during the middle of the 19th century and were large enough to carry the message of the service being advertised. But countermarks have been seen on a few Seated dollars. These large silver coins did not circulate freely during much of the 19th century but were certainly large enough to carry a nice message. Shown with this article is the picture of an 1872 dollar with the countermark S.B. Earnest./1874./Monongehela Cy. Notice the spelling of the word Monongahela! Does anyone have any information on the source of this unusual countermark?

Countermarked coins are a reminder of an advertising practice that was used for an extended period of time during the 19th century. These coins are relics of the past century and a reminder of the culture of our country during its development more than one hundred years ago.

Half Dollar Reference Book Sent to Publisher

Our new reference book on Liberty Seated half dollars has just recently been sent to DLRC Press for publication. This book should be available to the numismatic public by January 1993. A publication announcement for the book will accompany the club announcement for the March issue of the Gobrecht Journal in January.

Bill Bugert
LSCC #455

The James B. Pryor Numismatic Research Award

The opposite page shows a copy of the plate that appeared on the plaque presented to Bill Bugert for winning the James B. Pryor Numismatic Research Award. This plaque was specifically designed for this new award and the same format will be used at future presentations of the award. John Kroon also received a similar plaque as the co-winner of the award since both individuals received the same number of votes for their articles in the election held last spring.

The James B. Pryor Numismatic Research Award was created to recognize an outstanding contribution in numismatic research on Liberty Seated coinage. Twenty articles describing the results of numismatic research on Seated coins that had appeared in the first 50 issues of the Gobrecht Journal were nominated for consideration by the club officers. These articles were placed on a ballot and this ballot distributed to club members in April 1992. The ballots were returned in May and counted in June. The winners were then announced at the ANA convention in Orlando in August 1992.

The Pryor Numismatic Research Award was designed to recognize the contributions to the club by James B. Pryor, one of the original group of eight members who created the Gobrecht Journal in August 1974. Mr. Pryor actually printed the first three issues of the journal at the Mayfield Printing Company, a printing firm which he owned. Jim continued his strong support for the activities of the club over the years and always believed that valuable information could be obtained from the study of collector coins. Jim was a serious collector of Liberty Seated half dollars and assembled an outstanding collection of coins in this series in superior grades. Jim died in April 1991 from an inoperable brain tumor. His enthusiasm and devotion to numismatics will be greatly missed by all those who had the opportunity to know him.

The logo that appears on this plaque was specifically created for the Pryor Numismatic Research Award and was designed by my daughter, Lisa R. McCloskey. The design presents several symbols of the Liberty Seated era in a modern form. I expect that we will use the logo again in future presentations of the award.

It has not been decided when the Pryor Numismatic Research Award will be presented again. We are already giving the Ahwash Award for an outstanding contribution to the journal on a yearly basis. It would therefore seem appropriate that the numismatic research award be presented only infrequently, so that the ballot would contain a true cross section of worthy research articles. It would be my feeling that the award should be given again after the publication of Issue #75 of the journal. This would represent the completion of 25 years of publication for the journal and provide members with the opportunity to select the article that they considered the best over a period of 25 issues from Issue #51 to Issue #75. The final decision on when this award will again be presented will be made at some time in the future.

The Editor

The
James B. Pryor
Numismatic Research Award

for the best research article
to appear in the first 50
issues of the
Gobrecht Journal

PRESENTED TO

WILLIAM B. BUGERT

FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION

The 1840-O No Mintmark Bust Reverse Half Dollar

that appeared in Issue #38 of the Journal.
This award presented
at the ANA Convention in Orlando
on the 13th of August 1992.

LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Sholley and Spangler Share Ahwash Award for 1992

The voting for the 1992 Ahwash Award held during July 1992 ended in a tie for the first time in many years. The two winners for this year are Craig B. Sholley for this article " Master Hubs and Dies of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar Series" that appeared in Issue #54 of the journal and Robert Spangler for his article "Results of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar Survey" that appeared in Issue #53 of the journal. The Ahwash Award is given annually for the best article to appear in the journal as voted by the club members. This year's award covered the material in Issues #52 to #54 and the award winners were determined as a result of a vote by club members during July 1992. A total of 81 ballots were received from the club members who were asked to vote for no more than three articles which they liked best during the last year. It was decided to allow individuals to vote for three articles because the large number of choices would likely spread the votes out among many articles. There were 186 votes cast from the 81 ballots. A complete listing of the results is given below.

Rank, Article and Author

		Votes
1.	Master Hubs and Dies of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar Series by Craig Sholley	26
2.	Results of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar Survey by Robert Spangler	26
3.	What Some of Your Liberty Seated Coins Were Worth in 1932 by Weimar White	14
4.	Carson City Mint State Populations as a Function of Mintage by Weimar White	14
5.	A Discussion About Mint State 1873-CC Halves by Weimar White	14
6.	Some Interesting Uses for Coins During the 19th Century by Scott Grieb	11
7.	The Transitional 1840-O No Drapery Quarter by Jack Marston	11
8.	Market Values for Damaged Liberty Seated Dollars Established by Leonard Augsburger	8
9.	Varieties of the 1875-S Twenty Cent Piece by Kenneth Hill	7
10.	Continued Study of the Seated Dime Series Pays Off by Terry Searcy	7

Rank, Article and Author

		Votes
11.	The Large Date 1848/8 Half Dime - A Discovery Piece by Al Blythe	6
12.	A Second Variety for the 1858-S Dime by Scott Grieb	6
13.	A New variety of the 1858-O Half Dime by Al Blythe	5
14.	An Interesting 1876 Half Dollar Variety by Frank Van Valen	4
15.	The Rare 1839-O Large O Half Dime is an 1839/9-O by Al Blythe	3
16.	An Analysis of the 1867 Business Strike Half Dime by Al Blythe	3
17.	An 1845 Dime with Recut Date by Bill Fivaz	3
18.	An 1855 Doubled Die Half Dime by Chris Pilliod	3
19.	A Doubled Die 1891 Dime by Chris Pilliod	3
20.	The 1888-S Dime by Bill Cregan	2
21.	The 1859 A-2 Dime with an Extra 9 Punched into Gown by Gerry Fortin	2
22.	A Twice Countermarked 1853 Half Dollar by Donald Helfer	2
23.	A New Variety for the 1872-S Half Dime by Kenneth Hill	2
24.	An 1875 Dime with a Repunched Date by Chris Pilliod	2
25.	An 1860-S Half Dollar Die Variety by Paul Brill	1
26.	An 1856 Quarter with a Reverse Cud by Chris Pilliod	1

With 26 of the 31 eligible articles receiving support for the best article award, it is evident that there are diverse interests and preferences within the club. However, even one vote for an article indicates that it was important to at least one reader, and therefore a worthy contribution to the available information on Liberty Seated coinage. The officers wish to thank all those members who took time to contribute articles during the past year, and we hope that we will continue to receive interesting and exciting material in the years ahead.

The Editor

Up Date on the 1873-CC No Arrows Quarter

In July I received a telephone call from a dealer in the northwestern part of the United States inquiring about the value of an 1873-CC No Arrows quarter in VF-30 condition. I was pretty excited about the possibility of a circulated example of this variety appearing on the numismatic market and had a few questions about this new coin. I had previously written an article on this date in Issue #46 of the journal describing the die characteristics of genuine specimens and I had made a list of the verified and rumored pieces of this date in existence. My first question was, is the coin genuine? I was told that PCGS had slabbed the coin and had graded it VF-30. I was also told that John Dannreuther had sent the coin to a quarter expert for authentication. I was quite amused by this last statement as I had not seen the coin and all reference texts and scholars were wrong in stating that the 1873-CC No Arrows quarter had the same reverse as the 1870-CC to 1873-CC Arrows quarters prior to the appearance of my article in Issue #46 of the journal.

I had my first opportunity to see the coin at the ANA Convention in Orlando. I examined it carefully and have determined that it is indeed genuine. But I still do not know where it come from or if it is one of the unverified circulated coins that I listed in my article. All that is known about its pedigree is that it surfaced in the northwest among other worn and insignificant coins. It is possible that this specimen is the VF coin referenced by Abner Kriesberg or even the VG coin listed earlier in this century. Remember that a VG grade of 60 or more years ago could easily be called VF by today's standards. Therefore this VF-30 specimen could be one of the two previously mentioned circulated specimens of this date or it could be a new specimen not previously listed. Regardless of its background, this new coin is the fourth verified specimen of this rare date.

How much is this coin worth? This question remains unanswered as the coin is still up for sale by its owner.

Larry Briggs
LSCC #255

HALF DIMES

1842-O	PCGS-63	$9000
1852-O	VF-20, some hairlines	85
1855-O	PCGS-63	1200
1868-S	PCGS-62	700
1869-S	NGC-64	1300

DIMES

1843-O	VF-25, choice	$250
1847	AU-50, date overlaps base	325
1853-O	F-15, very nice	30
1859-S	PCGS F-12	220
1859-S	VF-25, problem free	385
1863	PCGS-63	1750
1864	NGC-64	2650
1869	EF-45, short flag on 1	100
1869	NGC-64	2400
1872-CC	PCGS VF-20, choice	1650
1873-CC	Arr, VF-20, eye appeal	2400
1876-S	ANACS-64	400
1879	NGC-66, fantastic toning	3150
1880	NGC PR-64	925
1886-S	NGC-62, scarce	950

TWENTY CENT PIECES

1875-CC	AU-55, sharp	$450

QUARTERS

1840-O	No Dr. EF-40, Breen #3939	$210
1840	Orapery, AU-50	310
1840-O	Orapery, AU-50, light roller marks on reverse	350

QUARTERS

1841-O	PCGS AU-55	$425
1842-O	Sm Dt, ANACS F-15	1000
1849-O	VF-20	1400
1852-O	VF-20	525
1853-O	PCGS AU-50	1250
1854-O	AU-50, dipped but nice	280
1855-O	EF-40, a few ticks but sharp	375
1857-O	PCGS AU-53, very sharp	550
1858-O	EF-45	175
1859-O	G-4	14
1860-O	PCGS AU-55	325
1867	ANACS-62	1300
1867	PCGS PR-62	700
1873-CC	Arr. VG-8, problem free	2300
1875-CC	PCGS AU-50	825
1879	PCGS-64	1400
1885	PCGS PR-63, nice cameo	850
1891-O	EF-40	650

HALF DOLLARS

1851	PCGS-62, gorgeous	$1900
1874-CC	Arr, PCGS AU-55	6000
1885	PCGS-64, frosty obv. PL rev	1850
1891	NGC-63, golden toning	925

DOLLARS

1849	NGC AU-50, choice	$595
1850-O	ANACS VF-20	550
1866	PCGS-63, prooflike	5750
1869	PCGS PR-63, light cameo	3250

These coins are as choice for their grade as I can find. Please call to discuss price or to obtain a better description. Best time to call is 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. CST except on Monday nights. Please include postage on orders under $100. 14 day return privilege. Minnesota residents please add tax.

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Bugert and Kroon Win First Numismatic Research Award

At the ANA Convention in Chicago, LSCC members approved the creation of the James B. Pryor Numismatic Research Award for an outstanding contribution to the literature in the area of numismatic research. The first award was to be given for the best research article to appear in the first fifty issues as determined by a vote of the club members. During the fall of 1991 the club officers nominated 20 articles that they considered worthy of the award and placed them on the ballot. To be eligible, the contents of an article must have been obtained mainly from the observation of actual coins. The vote by club members was held during the month of May 1992 and the votes tabulated during June 1992. With so many fine articles being considered for the award, the voting was very close and the final tabulation resulted in two articles ending in a tie with 17 votes each. After consideration, it was decided that both individuals should be presented with the first numismatic research award. Therefore the two winners of the first James B. Pryor Numismatic Research Award are William B. Bugert for his article "The 1840-O No Mintmark Bust Reverse Half Dollar" that appeared in Issue #38 of the Journal and John T. Kroon for his article "The Four Reverses of the Carson City Seated Dollars" that appeared in Issue #23 of the Journal. A total of 66 ballots were received from club members who were asked to vote for no more than three articles on the ballot. It was decided to allow individuals to vote for three articles because the large number of choices would likely spread the votes out among many articles. There were 162 votes cast from the 66 ballots. A complete listing of the results is given below.

Rank, Article and Author

		Votes
1.	The 1840-O No Mintmark Bust Reverse Half dollar, Issue #38 by Bill Bugert	17
2.	The Four Reverses of the Carson City Seated Dollars, Issue #23 by John Kroon	17
3.	Mintmark Variation of New Orleans Dimes, Issue #15 by John McCloskey	16
4.	The 1870-CC Half Dollar - The Louisiana Hoard, Issue #40 by Randall Wiley	16
5.	Gobrecht Dollars, Issue #37 by James Gray	15
6.	Mint Mark Varieties of San Francisco Half Dollars 1855-1878, Issue #15 by Randall Wiley	13
7.	1840-O Half Dollars, Issue #18 by John McCloskey	10

Rank, Article and Author

		Votes
8.	The Mysterious 1875-S Quarter, Issue #35 by Larry Briggs	7
9.	Five Varieties of the 1847-O Doubled Die Half Dollar, Issue #49 by Bill Bugert	6
10.	The 1870-CC Half Dollar: A Close Examination, Issue #26 by David Lange	6
11.	A Study on the Edge Reeding of Seated Half Dollars, Issue #33 by David Lange	6
12.	Die Characteristics of the 1870-CC Quarter, Issue #28 by Larry Briggs	5
13.	The 1873-CC No Arrows Quarter, Issue #46 by Larry Briggs	5
14.	The 1849 V-2 Half Dime, Issue #32 by Bill Fivaz	5
15.	1873 Half Dollars with Small Arrows, Issue #33 by Harry Boosel	4
16.	Seated-Bust Transitional Half Dollars, Issue #13 by Randall Wiley	4
17.	The 1851 Seated Dollar, Issue #45 by David Cohen	3
18.	A Late Die State 1840 Half with Reverse of 1838, Issue #24 by David Lange	3
19.	1869 Seated Dollars, Issue #31 by David Cohen	2
20.	Extended Vertical Shield Lines of Liberty Seated Quarters, Issue #47 by Robert Izydore	2

The results of the voting were very surprising in that there was no clear choice among the articles for this award and many different articles received solid support from the members. The results are an indication of the overall quality of the material that has been published in the journal and a tribute to the individuals who spent many hours studying their coins in order to obtain the information presented in their articles. The authors of all of the articles are to be congratulated for their efforts as it was an honor even to have an article nominated for this award.

No decision has been made as to when this award will be given again. It is expected that the next award will be given starting with articles from Issue #51 and that another vote will be taken within a period of from 5 to 10 years. A decision on the timing of the next award will be made at a later date.

The Editor

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This ad is only a partial listing of my current inventory which contains coins from two nice collections that I recently purchased. Let me know what else you need, I just may have it.

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1841-O	Ch. AU, light cleaning	$165
1843	XF-AU, lustrous	33
1845	Ch. AU, full strike	135
1847	XF, original	95
1849	VF-XF, original	30
1851	AU, nice strike	80
1851-O	Ch. VF, golden toning	70
1858-S	VG-F, a few light scratches	75
1859-S	F-VF, hidden obv. scratches	160
1860-O	G-VG, small X in obv. field	190
1861	Ch. AU, deep original toning	55
1861	PCGS-61, obv. of 1860	155
1861-S	VF-XF, hairlines	140
1863-S	F, old cleaning	37
1864-S	F, old cleaning, sharp	36
1866	VG	325
1867-S	F-VF, old cleaning	50
1870-S	Ch.VF, mark on 1 and rock	340
1871	XF-AU, full strike	33
1871-S	XF-AU, some luster	110
1872-CC	F, small hole	250
1872-S	VF-XF, several obv. marks	60
1872-S	AU, lustrous, lightly toned	350
1873-CC	XF, several obv. digs	2100
1873-S	AU, lustrous, lightly toned	300
1874-S	VG, reverse cud	40
1875-CC	XF-AU, cc in wreath	32
1875-CC	Ch. XF, cc under wreath	40
1877-CC	AU-UNC, A-3, Type 1 rev	130
1881	F, light gray toning	160
1886-S	F, old cleaning	45

QUARTERS

1838	VF-XF, a few marks	$65
1841	VF, album toning	115
1841-O	VF, Var. 1-B	60
1842-O	Lg. Ot, F-VF, old cleaning	27
1842-O	VF-XF, original toning	60
1844	Ch. VF, old cleaning	31
1844-O	VF, old cleaning	50
1845	Ch. XF, old cleaning	65

QUARTERS

1845	XF-AU, lustrous, nice	$80
1846	VF, deep album toning	31
1847	VF-XF, old cleaning	30
1847	XF-AU, some luster	60
1850	VF, old cleaning	70
1851	VF-XF, original toning	145
1855-O	ANACS-12, choice	90
1855-O	VF-XF, deep original toning	200
1856-O	VF, deep original toning	35
1859-S	F-VF, Var. 1-A, lightly toned	165
1860-S	F	320
1861-S	F, lightly toned	130
1863	F-VF, nice original toning	45
1864	F, nice gray	85
1864-S	F, nice gray	380
1865-S	F, original toning	145
1866	XF, large dent behind head	300
1869	AG-G, original	150
1871-S	G/AG, a few old scratches	150
1872	XF, some luster, vivid toning	120
1872-CC	VG/G, reverse weak under QUAR	300
1873	VF-XF, NA, Open 3, old cleaning	80
1873-S	VF, nice gray	130
1873-S	Ch. XF, unevenly toned	250
1878	VF, medium toning	22
1879	Proof, a few marks	450
1885	VF, original, a few marks	190
1885	ANACS-40, deep orig. toning	300

DOLLARS

1836	VG, J-60, holed & plugged	$1850
1849	XF, wire rims	260
1853	F-VF, expertly plugged	120
1856	G, old cleaning, toned	225
1861	VF, nice gray toning	700
1862	F-VF, slightly scruffy	425
1865	VF, a few light marks	275
1866	F-VF	210
1868	F-VF, a few small marks	175
1871	F, holed & plugged	50
1873	F, small dig above head	120

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Greer Book on Liberty Seated Dimes Now Available

Liberty Seated dimes were struck over a period of 55 years beginning with the introduction of the no stars obverse variety in 1837. These coins circulated throughout the United States for a major part of the 19th century and served the country well as a source of small change. Yet very little had been written on these coins more than a century after they had been struck at the US mint. Only within the last 20 years have numismatic scholars studied this series and published valuable information on rarity, provided documentation on the existence of many varieties and identified die characteristics to authenticate many of the rare dates in the series. However, it has been my opinion that the series has suffered for many years because of the lack of a comprehensive reference work which would help the collector make informed purchasing decisions on the series. I am pleased to announce that I feel this problem has been solved. The available knowledge on Seated dimes has been collected, studied, expanded and carefully analyzed in an important new book on the series. "The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Dimes" by Brian Greer is a valuable reference book on Seated dimes that was released to the numismatic public in July 1992. It adds a wealth of new information not previously available on this beautiful series of 19th century dimes and presents much of it in charts and tables that are easy to use. The book is well organized, clearly written and contains invaluable information on the series gathered by the author over a period of many years from his extensive studies of Seated dimes.

The new book by Brian Greer takes a very different approach to the series than that used by Kam Ahwash when he published the "Encyclopedia of Liberty Seated Dimes" in 1977. Ahwash attempted to list as many varieties as possible, provide large clear pictures of each variety and present documentation on how to tell them apart. Greer does not attempt to list all of the known die varieties for each date but he does provide a full obverse and reverse picture of every date in the series. Furthermore he provides close up pictures of over 125 varieties in the series showing mostly key features for the identification of recut date varieties, doubled die varieties and blundered die varieties. Some of these varieties have never before been published and the book presents valuable documentation of these varieties for the interested collector.

But the most valuable contribution of the book lies in the research done by the author in gathering rarity data for each date in the series. Greer provides rarity ratings in four grades from G-VG to MS for all dates and major varieties in the series. This information will help the collector identify coins that are particularly rare in certain grades and provide him with the knowledge to make more informed purchases within the series. Striking characteristics are also provided for many dates in the series so that the collector can determine if a specimen that he is considering for purchase is typical of those pieces available of this date.

I have also found the price history given in the book to be particularly valuable. Coin World Trends prices are given in four grades from Good to Mint State at four intervals over a 28 year period from 1963 to 1991. This information allows the reader to examine the price changes of each date by grade in recent years so that he can better assess the stability and price growth for a specific date. Some dates have shown steady price increases while others have shown limited price growth since 1963.

Also of interest to the reader would be the table showing the population statistics for certified coins by date from the grading services, tables listing all of the mintmark size variations known for each date from the New Orleans and San Francisco mints and the tables listing the rarest dates in specific grades. Overall the new guide to the Liberty Seated dime series by Brian Greer is a valuable contribution to the literature on the dime series and must reading for any collector with an interest in Seated dimes.

The Editor

Pocket Change Coin Shop

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1875-S	Good, full rims	$30
1875-CC	AU-53, PCGS, PL reverse	595

HALF DOLLARS

1839	With Drapery, XF-40, slight ding at 12 o'clock	$95
1855-O	XF-40, ANACS	110
1856	VF-30, ANACS	55
1858	AU, some field damage	60
1858-O	XF-40, hole between head and cap	25
1859	AU-55, golden rims	200
1863-S	XF-45, PCGS	90
1876-CC	XF-40	100

SEATED DOLLARS

1870-CC	VF-30, PCGS	$695

TRADE DOLLARS

1875-CC	AU-50, lightly dipped	$275

WANTED

1863	dime, Good to VG
1873-CC	half dollar, with arrows, VF
1874-CC	half dollar, with arrows, Fine to VF
1875	trade dollar, XF

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Letters to the Editor

At the ANA Convention in Orlando, I purchased an original 1883 dime in choice mint state that appeared to be an example of the variety with the "broken 3 punched over normal 3". Upon returning home and examining the other 1883 dimes in my collection, I observed that 1883 dimes with weakly struck dates had a partial lower loop in the 3. Conversely, I found that coins with a boldly struck date showed a complete lower loop to the 3. From these observations, it appears that the design of the 3 itself may be the cause of the partial lower loop on this digit. However, none of the coins that I studied showed attributes in the lower loop of the 3 that would indicate that the weakness in the date caused the "broken 3 punched over normal 3" variety. Dime specialists may want to examine their 1883 dimes to form their own opinion.

Gerry Fortin
LSCC #1054

I wish to report a choice XF 1856 half dollar with a blundered 1 as described by Glenn Peterson in Issue #54 of the journal. The 1856 half dollar in my collection has a high date with drapery and a supported foot. The last four stars are recut. The stars on the right side are weakly struck when compared to the stars on the left side of the coin. The reverse has a heavy legend and an unconnected center vertical stripe. Generally, the coin resembles the Beistle 5-Aa variety, but it does not have the die crack connecting the last four stars on the obverse indicated for this variety. The blundered 1 on my coin clearly shows the tip of the base of a second 1 protruding from the upper right side of the 1 in the date as illustrated by Peterson. This appears to be a new variety for the 1856 half dollar. The rarity of this new variety is yet to be determined.

Paul Brill
LSCC #749

I would like to express my thanks to all those club members who voted for my article "The Four Reverses of the Carson City Seated Dollars" as the best technical article to appear in the first 50 issues of the Gobrecht journal. It is an honor to have won the research award and I am pleased that so many members felt that my article was worthy of such a high compliment.

John Kroon
LSCC #472

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all those members who voted for my article for the 1992 James B. Pryor Numismatic Research Award. It is indeed an honor to have won this award, especially since it was appropriately named after one of the club's premier numismatists. I have hung my plaque proudly in my numismatic library and I am sure that it will provide the inspiration for additional numismatic studies.

Bill Bugert
LSCC #455

★—★ Collective Volumes Available ★—★

In order to make the information in the early issues of the Gobrecht Journal available to all LSCC members, the club has chosen to reprint the articles in these issues in hard bound collective volumes. There have been three collective volumes printed to date, each containing the material printed in the journal over a period of five years. The articles in these collective volumes have been ordered by denomination and date to make it easy for the reader to locate a specific article or to research a specific date. The first section contains articles of general interest which cut across denominations. Subsequent sections contain information on specific denominations starting with half dimes and progressing through to dollars. These volumes contain many original articles on Seated coinage not available in any other numismatic books currently on the market.

The collective volumes represent the latest available research on the silver Liberty Seated coinage of the 19th century. Each book is attractively bound in a hard cover in a 7 by 10 inch format. All prices include postage.

Collective Volume Number One

This volume contains the material published in the first 18 issues of the journal that were released between December 1974 and July 1980. This volume contains almost 390 pages of material on Seated coins. Price: $29 per copy.

Collective Volume Number Two

This Volume contains the material published in Issues #19 to #33 of the journal that were released between November 1980 and July 1985. This volume contains 380 pages of material on Seated coins. Price: $29 per copy.

Collective Volume Number Three

This volume contains the material published in Issues #34 to #48 of the journal that were released between November 1985 and July 1990. This volume contains 470 pages of material on Seated coins. Price. $34 per copy.

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Receipts		
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Interest Income	215.90	
Repayment from Book Account	1,000.00	
Total Receipts	$11,470.40	
Total Available		$15,162.90
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Printing	$5,768.04	
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Reverse Picture of
1855-S Half Dollar

Your comments on any of the articles, ads, or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

John McCloskey
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